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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/735,893	12/16/2003	Shuji Nagano	1472-0310P	3545
2292	7590	07/24/2006	EXAMINER	
BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747			ESHETE, ZELALEM	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3748	

DATE MAILED: 07/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/735,893	NAGANO ET AL.	
	Examiner Zelalem Eshete	Art Unit 3748	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to the amendment filed on 6/13/2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-5,8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanshin (JP2001336407) in view of Voll et al. (4,713,704).

Regarding claims 1,8: Sanshin discloses a valve system for an internal combustion engine (see figure 2), comprising: an intake-side rocker shaft having a first oil channel extending in a longitudinal direction thereof (see numeral 33); an exhaust-side rocker shaft having a second oil channel extending in a longitudinal direction thereof (see numeral 34); intake-side rocker arms having ends thereof connected to intake valves and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said intake-side rocker arms rock (see numerals 31a,31b,31c), the intake-side rocker arms being driven by an intake cam (see numerals 30a,30b,30c); and exhaust-side rocker arms having ends thereof connected to exhaust valves and supported on said exhaust-side rocker

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shaft such that said exhaust-side rocker arms rock (see figures 4,5), the exhaust-side rocker arms being driven by an exhaust cam (see numeral 30d).

Sanshin fails to disclose wherein one of said rocker shafts/oil channel which requires to have a higher stiffness has a larger diameter to prevent said one of the rocker shafts from at least one of curving and twisting due to external force incurred to one of intake-side rocker arm and said exhaust-side rocker arms.

However, Voll teaches shaft which requires to have a higher stiffness has a larger diameter (see column 4, lines 29 to 34).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sanshin's device by providing larger diameter to meet higher stiffness as taught by Sanshin in order to increase the physical property of the shaft through the physical dimension of the shaft as is well known in the art of strength of materials. It also would have been obvious to one having an ordinary skill in the art that an increased in stiffness inherently leads to preventing said one of the rocker shafts from at least one of curving and twisting due to external force incurred to one of intake-side rocker arm and said exhaust-side rocker arms as is well known in the art of strength of materials.

Regarding claim 2: Sanshin discloses the claimed invention as recited above and further discloses said intake-side rocker arms includes, a first rocker arm having an end thereof connected to the intake valve and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said first rocker arm rocks (see numeral 31a), the first rocker arm being driven

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by a first low-lift cam (see numeral 30a), a second rocker arm having an end thereof connectable to said first rocker arm and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said second rocker arm rocks (see numeral 31b), the second rocker arm being driven by a high-lift cam causing a larger valve lift than the first low-lift cam (see numeral 30b), and a connection switching mechanism that selectively connects or disconnects said second rocker arm to or from said first rocker arm (see abstract).

Sanshin fails to disclose said intake-side rocker shaft has a larger diameter than a diameter said exhaust-side rocker shaft.

However, Voll teaches shaft which requires to have a higher stiffness has a larger diameter (see column 4, lines 29 to 34).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sanshin's device by providing larger diameter to meet higher stiffness as taught by Sanshin since additional weight on the intake rocker shaft requires additional stiffness requirement as is well known in the art of strength of materials.

Regarding claim 3: Sanshin discloses the claimed invention as recited above; and further discloses said intake valves includes a first intake valve and a second intake valve (see figure 4; numeral 25), and said intake-side rocker arms includes a first rocker arm having an end thereof connected to said first intake valve and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said first rocker arm rocks (see numeral 31c), the first rocker arm being driven by a first low-lift cam (see numeral 30c), a third rocker arm

having an end thereof connected said second intake valve and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said third rocker arm rocks (see numeral 31a), the third rocker arm being driven by a second low-lift cam that causes a smaller valve than the first low-lift cam (see numeral 30a), a second rocker arm having an end thereof connectable to said first rocker arm and supported on said intake-side rocker shaft such that said second rocker arm rocks (see numeral 31b), the second rocker arm being driven by a high lift cam that causes a larger valve lift than the first low lift cam (see numeral 30b), and a connection switching mechanism that selectively connects or disconnects said second rocker arm to or from said first rocker arm and said third rocker arm (see abstract).

Sanshin fails to disclose said intake-side rocker shaft has a larger diameter than a diameter said exhaust-side rocker shaft.

However, Voll teaches shaft which requires to have a higher stiffness has a larger diameter (see column 4, lines 29 to 34).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sanshin's device by providing larger diameter to meet higher stiffness as taught by Sanshin since additional weight on the intake rocker shaft requires additional stiffness requirement as is well known in the art of strength of materials.

Regarding claim 4: Sanshin discloses said intake side rocker arms includes center pivot type rocker arms with middle parts thereof pivoted by said intake said rocker shaft (see figure 5).

Regarding claim 5: Sanshin discloses said intake side rocker arms and said exhaust side rocker arms are driven by a single cam shaft disposed between said intake side rocker shaft and said exhaust side rocker shaft (see figures 4,5).

3. Claims 6,7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanshin (JP2001336407) in view of Voll et al. (4,713,704) as applied to claim 3; and further in view of Konno (5,553,584).

Sanshin discloses the claimed invention as recited above except for specifying the type of the roller.

However, Konno teaches the roller is a "double ring type" sliding roller or a roller provided with a needle bearing" as follower of the cam (see figure 34).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Sanshin's device by providing the roller as taught by Konno in order to reduce friction during power transmission from the camshaft.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 6/13/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
5. Applicant's argument on page 10,11: The secondary reference shows the teaching that is well known in the art of strength of materials, and that is, a higher stiffness results with higher diameter because the cross section changes with a higher diameter. It is also inherent for a structure to inhibit deformation with an increase in stiffness (strength).

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

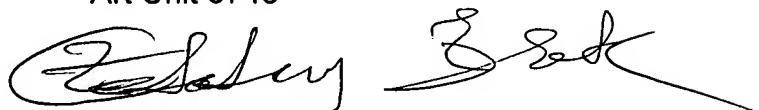
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Zelalem Eshete whose telephone number is (571) 272-4860. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas Denion can be reached on (571) 272-4859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Zelalem Eshete
Examiner
Art Unit 3748




Thai-Ba Trieu
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 3700
07/19/2006